

**Town of West Hartford  
Conservation and Environment Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 29, 2015, 7:00 PM  
Town Hall, Room 314**

**Present:** Commissioners: Brian McCarthy (Chair), Jared Cohane, Beth Lander Morris, Christopher Williams, Stefanie Wnuck

1. The May 2015 CEC Meeting Minutes were approved. (Motion by Cohane, Second by Williams)
2. Communications and News: none.
3. Old Business: none.
4. New Business:

Representatives from AECOM, MDC (Dan Hageman), and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (David Laiuppa, soil scientist) presented four applications to the Commission. Applications IWW #1030, IWW #1031, IWW #1032 and IWW #1033 were submitted by the MDC as part of a significant, multi-year project to construct a tunnel from Hartford to West Hartford to reduce combined sewer overflows. The South Storage Tunnel will be constructed 200' below the surface and will be 18' in diameter. The tunnel will be designed with a .1% slope to allow water to drain to Hartford Treatment Plant as it collects during rain and storm events. The goal of the project is to reduce the combined sewer overflow events to one per year, down from current average of ~50 events per year. The applicants will be selecting a contractor through a bidding process and are planning to break ground in the summer of 2016.

**Southwest Corner of 1 Charter Oak Boulevard fronting on Talcott Road (north of Chelton Avenue)** – Application (IWW #1030) of Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) (Dan Hageman, Contact) requesting approval of a map amendment to the Official Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map of the Town of West Hartford. The proposed amendment is based on an on-site soil survey prepared by a professional soil scientist. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 1, 2015. Required public hearing scheduled for July 8, 2015.)

**Southwest Corner of 1 Charter Oak Boulevard fronting on Talcott Road (north of Chelton Avenue)** – Application (IWW #1031) of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) (Dan Hageman, Contact) requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a wetland and watercourse area. The applicant proposes construction activities related to the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel Project which include a drop shaft to the South Tunnel, a connection from the West Hartford consolidation Conduit, an odor control facility, parking area and an emergency generator. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 1, 2015. Determined to be potentially significant and set for public hearing on July 8, 2015.)

The MDC proposes to build a drop shaft to the South Tunnel on property it is in the process of acquiring from Triumph Engine Control Systems. MDC is purchasing a portion of impervious paved parking lot from Triumph Engine Control Systems to construct a drop shaft to connect to the South Tunnel, a connection from the West Hartford consolidation Conduit, an odor control facility, and a natural gas powered emergency generator.

There is a wetland and tributary located within 10' of the west side of the proposed parking lot site, which is within the 150' review area for a regulated wetland or watercourse. The proposed project and construction will most likely not directly impact the wetland/watercourse. The wetland system consists of a wetland to the north of Talcott Road which drains into a brook/wetland located to the west of the parking lot. The brook/wetland also border a residential lot further to the west. Surface water on the proposed site is pitched to proposed catch basins that flow to the storm sewer. There is a storm drain beneath the wetland west of the parking lot.

The drop shaft will be 35' in diameter and blasting will be used to construct the shaft. The blasting frequency will be determined by the contractor selected for the project. MDC stated that the contractor will follow all acceptable thresholds for blasting and will obtain the necessary permit from the fire department and all applicable authorities. An enclosure (although not an actual building) will also be constructed on site. There will be lights placed above doors but the lights will not be on continuously during the day or night. MDC anticipates weekly visits to the site by maintenance staff. The site will be landscaped with appropriate vegetation and fenced (Black Wrought Iron in appearance) as a security measure.

An odor control system using activated carbon will be installed and operated in the tunnel shaft on the site. The system will be sized much larger than necessary to minimize any potential nuisance odor to residential and commercial neighbors. In addition, measures will be taken to minimize any potential noise pollution from on-site equipment.

The proposed project will reduce the overall impervious surface area and increase vegetation. MDC is working with DRAC and TP&Z to develop a landscape management plan. The selected contractor will develop an erosion and sedimentation control plan, which will be based on the project approach. We have not yet seen these plans. MDC confirmed that the project site has been a parking lot for many years, and there is no known contamination on the subject portion of the property. Additionally, the MDC will employ dust control standards during construction that are used on all projects. The CEC has also not seen the plan for dust control.

**957 New Britain Avenue (Southwest corner of Hillcrest & New Britain)** – Application (IWW#1032) Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) (Dan Hageman, Contact) requesting approval of a map amendment to the Official Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map of the Town of West Hartford. The proposed amendment is based on an on-site soil survey prepared by a professional soil scientist. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 1, 2015. Required public hearing scheduled for July 8, 2015.)

**957 New Britain Avenue (Southwest corner of Hillcrest & New Britain)** – Application (IWW #1033) of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) (Dan Hageman, Contact) requesting

approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a wetland and watercourse area. The applicant proposes construction of structures connecting the Newington and New Britain Consolidation Conduits as well as connecting piping, drop and ventilation shafts and an odor control facility for the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel Project. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 1, 2015. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 1, 2015. Determined to be potentially significant and set for public hearing on July 8, 2015.)

The proposed site is 0.42 acres. MDC proposes to construct a drop shaft, a connection from the Newington and New Britain Consolidation Conduits, and an odor control facility.

There is a wetland located between Piper Brook and Hillcrest Avenue, and the wetland is within town property. The proposed site is located almost entirely within the 150' review area for a regulated wetland/watercourse. The proposed project will not likely have a significant impact on the wetland/watercourse. There is a steep slope down to Piper Brook on the proposed site, which flattens out before reaching the brook.

MDC will employ the same best management practices and mitigation approaches for odor, noise, erosion and sediment control, and vegetation restoration at the Hillcrest site as outlined above for the Talcott site.

The Commission does not express any reservations. MDC also acknowledged that remediation steps can be taken in response to any future potential complaints.

5. Motion for Meeting Adjournment approved. (Motion by Williams, Second by Wnuck)